



03-19-02

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PATENT

988772/L  
3-16-03  
#4/IDS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Mark J. Beitz, et al.  
Serial No. 10/039,238  
Filed December 31, 2001  
Confirmation No. 7291

Art Unit 1772

For **USABLE SPLICE FOR A STABILIZED ABSORBENT AND METHOD FOR  
MAKING THE SPLICE**

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March 18, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98 and MPEP 609, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants submit copies of the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A for consideration by the Patent and Trademark Office in the above-entitled application and to be made of record therein.

Respectfully submitted,

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DWT/cak

\*Enclosure

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Application Number 10/039,238

Filing Date December 31, 2001

Confirmation Number 7291

First Named Inventor Beitz

Group Art Unit 1772

Examiner Name

Sheet

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of

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Attorney Docket No.

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
	1	3,633,352		Marriner	01/11/1972
	2	3,886,031		Taitel	05/27/1975
	3	4,190,483		Ryan et al.	02/26/1980
	4	4,374,576		Ryan	02/22/1983
	5	4,776,920		Ryan	10/11/1988
	6	4,798,603		Meyer et al.	01/17/1989
	7	4,923,546		Wheeler et al.	05/08/1990
	8	5,176,668		Bernardin	01/05/1993
	9	5,176,672		Bruemmer et al.	01/05/1993
	10	5,192,606		Proxmire et al.	03/09/1993
	11	5,509,915		Hanson et al.	04/23/1996
	12	5,514,237		Emenaker et al.	05/07/1996
	13	5,584,897		Christianson et al.	12/17/1996
	14	6,160,197		Lassen et al.	12/12/2000

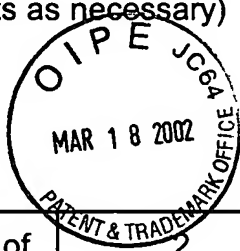
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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PTO/SB/08A			<b>Complete if Known</b>		
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)			Application Number	10/039,238	
			Filing Date	December 31, 2001	
			Confirmation Number	7291	
			First Named Inventor	Beitz	
			Group Art Unit	1772	
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	KCC 4809



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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	15	EP	0,842,756	A1	Rockwell	05/20/1998	
	16	WO	00/77286	A1	Vuillaume et al	12/21/2000	

OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>

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